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Whitaker, in his "History of Whalley," (1800), describes them, as "fond of married life,"—"possessed of little curiosity or ambition,"—"residing much at home,"—"pursuing domestic amusements which were more gross than costly,"—"that he had met with only one literary character, who was possessed of the family estate."

Following these disclosures, the fact becomes more and more obvious, that this vast accumulation of wealth and national advantage has come from the well directed industry of the common mass of that peculiar people whose lineage we have traced with so much interest. A people possessing little or no outward property, but being richly endowed with those valuable qualities, persevering industry, intelligence, and enterprise, and of whose dealings it is said, that they were conducted with "*plainness and downrightness*." In contemplating, as we cannot fail to do, with great astonishment, the amazing combination of mind and physical power which has thus elaborated a series of undertakings of such marvellous extent and national advantage, and that too in a country of such sterile and chaotic aspect, we are ready to pardon the delusions of eastern travellers, in attributing the wonderful temples of Palmyra to beings of a superior order.

Some short period of time, perhaps now a very brief one, will determine, whether our manufacturing industry shall continue to exalt the British name, or whether it shall speedily depart our coasts. Whether that noble spirit of our people, so deservedly admired, shall at length be broken down and yield itself to pauperism, or whether it is still possessed of elasticity to overcome the crisis. Already have this people left on record, matter which will long and pleasurably interest the *historian*. But what must be our feelings if we are to believe that the destinies of such a people are henceforth to be bent towards destruction; and their memory be left only "to point a moral, or adorn a tale."

*On the Origin, Custody, and Value of Parish Registers, with an Abstract of the Registers of the Collegiate Church of Manchester.*

By the Rev. RICHARD PARKINSON, B.D., Canon.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, on Thursday, June 24, 1842.]

I HAVE thought it would not be uninteresting to this Association to receive a brief statement of the contents of the parish registers of the collegiate church of Manchester, both as being connected with the place where the meeting is now held, and as being probably the largest, and, with some exceptions, perhaps the most perfect of all parish registers now in existence, the total number of baptisms, marriages, and burials there recorded being 554,017.

The first order for the keeping of such registers which we find on record, is an injunction issued in the 30th year of Henry VIII. by Cromwell, the King's Vicar-General, which ordained that "in all churches a register should be kept of every wedding, christening, and buriall within the same parish, for ever."\* This injunction, which was issued in the year 1538, was extensively complied with, and I have seen many parish registers bearing date from that year. The next and more explicit order

\* Baker's Chronicle, p. 424.

on the subject is an injunction issued in the reign of Edward VI., in 1547, which is as follows:—

“That the parson, vicar, or curate, and parishioners of every parish within this realm, shall in their churches and chapels keep one book, or register, wherein they shall write the day and year of every wedding, christning, and burial made within their parish for their time, and so every man succeeding them likewise; and therein shall write every person’s name that shall be so wedded, christned, or buried. And for the safe keeping of the same book the parish shall be bound to provide, of their common charges, one sure cofer, with two locks and keys, whereof the one to remain with the parson, vicar, or curate, and the other with the wardens of every parish, church, or chapel, wherein the said book shall be laid up; which book they shall every Sunday take forth, and in the presence of the said wardens, or one of them, write and record in the same all the weddings, christnings, and burials, made the whole week before, and that done, to lay up the book in the said cofer, as afore. And for every time that the same shall be omitted, the party that shall be in the fault thereof shall forfeit to the said church iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>, to be employed to the poor men’s box of that parish.”\*

These injunctions were further enforced by Queen Elizabeth, in whose reign, a protestation being appointed to be made and subscribed by ministers at institution, one head of it was,—“I shall keep the register book, according to the Queen’s Majesty’s injunctions.” But what was and still continues to be the law of the church on this subject is contained in the 70th canon of the “Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical,” which were issued in the year 1603, and still remain in force. The canon is as follows:—

*“Registers in Churches and Chapels.*

“In every parish church and chapel within this realm shall be provided one parchment book at the charge of the parish, wherein shall be written the day and year of every christening, wedding, and burial which have been in that parish since the time that the law was made in that behalf, so far as the ancient books thereof can be procured, but especially since the beginning of the reign of the late Queen. And for the safe keeping of the said book, the churchwardens, at the charge of the parish, shall provide one sure coffer, with three locks and keys, whereof one to remain with the minister and the other two with the churchwardens severally; so that neither the minister without the two churchwardens, nor the churchwardens without the minister, shall at any time take that book out of the said coffer. And henceforth upon every Sabbath-day, immediately after morning or evening prayer, the minister and churchwardens shall take the said parchment book out of the said coffer, and the minister, in the presence of the churchwardens, shall write and record in the said book the names of all persons married and buried in that parish in the week before, and the day and year of every such christening, marriage, and burial; and that done, they shall lay up that book in the coffer, as before; and the minister and churchwardens, unto every page of that book, when it shall be filled with such inscriptions, shall subscribe

\* Sparrow’s Injunctions, par. 5.

their names. And the churchwardens shall, once every year, within one month after the five and twentieth day of March, transmit unto the bishop of the diocese, or his chancellor, a true copy of the names of all persons christened, married, or buried in their parish in the year before (ended the said five and twentieth day of March), and the certain days and months in which every such christening, marriage, and burial was had, to be subscribed with the hands of the said minister and churchwardens, to the end the same may faithfully be preserved\* in the registry of the said bishop, which certificate shall be received without fee; and if the minister or churchwardens shall be negligent† in performance of anything herein contained, it shall be lawful for the bishop, or his chancellor, to convent them, and proceed against every of them as contemners of this our constitution.”‡

But what, probably, caused these injunctions to be more rigidly observed than hitherto, was an Act of the 6 and 7 of William and Mary, c. 6, which brought sharper eyes than before to inspect the parish registers, and see that they were duly kept. This curious Act is entitled,—“An Act for granting to His Majesty certaine rates and duties upon Marriages, Births, and Burials, and upon Batchelors and Widowers for the terme of Five Yeares, for carrying on the Warr against France with vigour.”

The preamble, after stating the reasons for the passing of this Act, goes on to say, “that from and after the first day of May, in the yeare of our Lord One thousand six hundred ninety and five, for and dureing the terme of five yeares, to commence and bee accounted from the said first day of May, and noe longer, there shall be raised, levied, and paid to His Majesty, his heires and successores, (over and above all other duties whatsoever,) for and upon the burial of all persons who shall bee buried within the said terme of five yeares, att any place within the kingdome of England, dominion of Wales, and towne of Berwick-upon-Tweed, the severall and respective duties and sums of money hereinafter mentioned, (that is to say)—

For and upon the burial of every person, the sum of foure shillings.  
Of the degree of duke of England, Scotland, or Ireland, 50*l*.  
over and above the 4*s*.  
For a duchess, 50*l*. over and above the 4*s*.  
Marquis and marchioness, 40*l*. over and above the 4*s*.  
Earl and countess, 30*l*. over and above the 4*s*.

and in like manner for each grade, down to a simple gentleman, 1*l*.

It is then enacted, that in default of payment of the said duties, they may be recovered by distress “upon the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, or the goods and chattels.”

It further levies “for and upon the birth of every person and

\* “Faithfully be preserved.” And being so, it is good evidence, and the falsifying of it is punishable at common law; for instance, one was fined 200*l*. for forging the entry of a marriage.

† “Shall be negligent.” In all the three injunctions of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Elizabeth, the penalty upon the person in fault was 3*s*. 4*d*., one-half to the poor’s box, the other half to the repairs of the church.—See *Burn’s Ecc. Law*, “Register Book.”

‡ Gibson’s *Codex Juris Anglicani*, vol. i. 229.

child (except the child or children of such as receive alms), the sum of two shillings.”

For the eldest son of a duke, 30*l.* over and above the 2*s.*

Eldest son of a marquis, 25*l.*       ,,       ,,

and so on in proportion to quality.

And again, “for and upon the respective marriage of every person (except such as receive alms), the sum of two shillings and sixpence.”

A duke,       50*l.* over and above the 2*s.* 6*d.*

A marquis, 40*l.*       ,,       ,,

An earl,       30*l.*       ,,       ,,

and so on according to quality.

Among the various provisions of this Act I find the following:—

“And bee it further enacted, for the better levying and collecting the duties granted by this Act, That all persons in holy orders, deans, parsons, deacons, viccars, curates, and their or any of their substitutes, doe, within their respective parishes, precincts, and places, take an exact and true account, and keep a register in writing, of all and every person or persons married, buried, christened, or borne in his or their respective parishes or precincts, or in such common burying-places as their respective-parishioners are usually buried; into which book or register the collectors for the respective parishes and places, and all other persons concerned, shall have free accesse to view the same att all seasonable times without any fee or reward. And if any such parson or minister shall refuse or neglect to keep a true register thereof, as before is directed, such parson or minister soe offending shall forfeit the sum of One hundred pounds, to bee recovered by such person as shall sue for the same in any of His Majesties courts of record, att Westminster, by an action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, wherein noe essoign, wager of law, or protection shall bee allowed, and wherein the prosecutor shall recover his full costs, the moiety of which forfeiture shall bee to the use of the king’s majestie, his heires and successors, and the other moiety to the persons who shall informe and sue for the same.”\*

We cannot wonder if, during these five years at least, parish registers were kept with the most punctual accuracy!

Though Cromwell’s injunctions were issued in the year 1538, yet the registers of the collegiate church do not commence before the year 1573. No doubt the unsettled state of the collegiate body, and the various changes which it was continually undergoing at and after that period, are sufficient to account for the neglect of these injunctions at that time; what was the immediate cause of the observance of them in the year 1573, can only now be matter of conjecture. It appears, however, from Hollingworth, that in that year injunctions were issued to the college by the “Archbishop of York, and other the Queen’s Majesty’s Commissioners for causes ecclesiastical within the province of York, about residence of the warden and fellows, and diligent and constant preaching every Sunday in the church of Manchester;” and this injunction may have led indirectly to the observance of the law with regard to the keeping of parish registers. Whatever may have been the cause, the registers of births, marriages, and deaths, commence in August, 1573, and are continued, with the following exceptions, to the present day. In

\* Statutes of the Realm, vol. vi, pp. 568 and 577.

the baptismal register for the year 1589, one leaf is lost, which contained the registers for five months of that year; and during the period of the usurpation, a chasm occurs in all the registers for eight years and nearly three months. With these exceptions, the registers are perfect. I have caused the returns to be made out monthly, quarterly, annually, and in periods of 20 years; so that they may be inspected either minutely, or in a more summary manner. I am in justice bound to add that the following abstract was compiled according to my wishes by Mr. Palmer, who combines much antiquarian reading and architectural skill, with unwearied industry. It will, perhaps, be sufficient for our present object, to read the summary drawn up in periods of 20 years.

*Number of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials recorded in the Register Books of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, from their commencement in the year 1573, to the end of the year 1841, showing the total amount every 20 years.*

Periods of 20 Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
From 1573 to 1580, both inclusive . . . . .	1,439	367	1,117
From 1581 to 1600, ditto . . . . .	3,992	808	4,670
From 1601 to 1620, ditto . . . . .	5,145	1,587	4,991
From 1621 to 1640, ditto . . . . .	5,654	1,644	5,700
From 1641 to 1653, ditto . . . . .	2,681	634	4,032
From 1654 to 1661, this portion is missing			
From 1662 to 1680, both inclusive . . . . .	3,533	1,340	4,194
From 1681 to 1700, ditto . . . . .	4,135	1,587	5,193
From 1701 to 1720, ditto . . . . .	5,105	2,701	5,568
From 1721 to 1740, ditto . . . . .	8,144	3,931	8,238
From 1741 to 1760, ditto . . . . .	12,866	5,587	11,633
From 1761 to 1780, ditto . . . . .	19,750	8,436	13,806
From 1781 to 1800, ditto . . . . .	42,995	20,888	24,738
From 1801 to 1820, ditto . . . . .	59,823	30,413	20,604
From 1821 to 1841, ditto . . . . .	104,592	53,316	26,380
Total . . . . .	279,914	133,239	140,864
Total of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials recorded . . . . . 554,017			

I ought to state, that I have procured also the registers of the churches of St. Mary, St. John, and St. Ann, so as to make the registers of the townships of Manchester and Salford, up to a certain period, tolerably complete. But the numbers in these churches have been so stationary, and bear so small a proportion to the total number, as to affect very little any question which regards the comparison of one period with another.

I will venture now to make a few remarks arising out of the consideration of these voluminous registers.

With regard to baptisms—they are, of course, no guide as to the actual amount of the population of the place at any given time; but they may be extremely useful in ascertaining the advance or retrogression of the population, by comparing their numbers at one period and at another, when there is no cause in operation to affect them except the number of births. But in later periods, the vast immigration of Irish Roman Catholics, who do not of course appear in this register, greatly reduces their value for any such purpose.

The register of burials is tolerably complete up to the opening of the Rushholme burial-ground, which took place in the year 1822. Since that time many burial-grounds have been opened, and this return ceases to be of much value for statistical purposes.

But the most complete portion of the register is that of marriages, which is perfect for the whole parish up to July, 1837, when the new system of registration commenced. Now it would appear that, taking extensive periods of time into view, which we are here enabled to do, an accurate record of all the marriages solemnized in any given place is the best criterion that can be taken to ascertain the *progress* of population in such place, next to that of actual enumeration. Taking this test as our guide, the marriage register before us will show the progress of population in Manchester and Salford (though of course only as an approximation to the truth) in a very striking manner.

The marriage register, as I have said, embraces the whole parish; but as the *fluctuations* in population chiefly affect the townships of Manchester and Salford, we will confine our attention to these alone.

Now the population of these townships in the year 1773, as taken by the Rev. John Whittaker and Dr. Percival, amounted to 27,246. The annual number of marriages at that period, taken on an average of 10 years, is 444, which, multiplied by 65,\* gives a result of nearly 2,000 more than the number ascertained by actual enumeration. The average number of the marriages, taken in the same manner, at the respective periods of 1801, 1811, 1821, and 1831, also multiplied by 65, agrees with a considerable degree of accuracy with the censuses of these respective periods; and this seems to justify us in applying the same proceeding backwards, and in this way tracing the population to the earliest period of this register. By pursuing this process, we find the average population of these townships, taken in periods of 20 years, to have been as follows:—

Between 1821 and 1841 inclusive	. .	173,000	
„ 1801 „ 1820	„ . .	98,500	{ Rather above the average; equal to the highest.
„ 1781 „ 1800	„ . .	67,800	
„ 1761 „ 1780	„ . .	27,430	
„ 1741 „ 1760	„ . .	17,940	
„ 1721 „ 1740	„ . .	12,740	
„ 1701 „ 1720	„ . .	8,775	
„ 1681 „ 1700	„ . .	5,135	
„ 1661 „ 1780	„ . .	4,550	
„ 1641 „ 1660	„ . .	3,250	{ Eight years are missing; the average of the 12 years re- corded is taken.
„ 1621 „ 1640	„ . .	5,330	
„ 1600 „ 1620	„ . .	5,135	
„ 1581 „ 1600	„ . .	2,600	
„ 1573 „ 1580	„ . .	2,990	

Though it may appear at first sight that so small an amount of population as 3,000 assigned to the townships of Manchester and Salford between 1573 and 1580 is hardly consistent with the statement contained in a petition to the Crown by the inhabitants in the year 1578,

\* It appears, from statistical returns, that the number of persons married in any one year in the towns of Leith and Aberdeen, is, to the whole population, in the proportion of 1 to 130, which is the number assumed in the present case.

that the parish\* contained "nigh 10,000 souls," yet we must remember that probably that statement might be a little exaggerated to answer a present purpose; and more especially, that the population of the agricultural parts of this vast parish, filled with the tenants and dependants of a numerous resident gentry, bore a much larger proportion to that of these townships than it does at present. Whoever looks at Hollingworth's map of these townships, taken so late as 1650, nearly 100 years after the time referred to, will see at once how little of the present town was then in existence. Market-steud-lane (not *street*), Deansgate, Cat-eaton street, Fennel-street, and Long Millgate, composed nearly the whole town.

Taking then this table to be, for the purposes of comparison, substantially correct, we find that the population rather retrograded from 1570 to 1600; advanced rapidly from 1600 to 1640; fell back by about one-third at and about the period of the usurpation; advanced to the point from which it had receded by the year 1700; more than doubled itself in the next 40 years; repeated this duplication in the next similar period, viz., from 1740 to 1780; nearly trebled itself in the succeeding 20 years, from 1780 to 1800; advanced in the proportion of 3 to 2 from 1800 to 1820; and has about doubled itself in the last 20 years. It thus appears that by far the most rapid increase took place between 1780 and 1800.

Many interesting memoranda occur in these registers, which it would be thought, perhaps, tedious minutely to enumerate.

In 1581, "Margaret Willson, a Kendal woman, was slayne with a tree in the churchyard." Such an accident could hardly now happen in either of the townships!

In 1589, probably during the plague, the number of funerals is 70 in one month, the average at that time being not more than 20. This fact is mentioned by Hollingworth.

The plague seems to have prevailed also in 1598. The average of funerals suddenly starts up from about 18 or 19 per month to about 50, for four months successively.

In 1605 the plague made sad inroads on the inhabitants, the register showing 188, 289, and 252 funerals per month; and all marriages and christenings cease for these three months! This must have been a most melancholy visitation.

In 1623 again, the funerals are suddenly doubled, probably from the same cause.

In 1645 this visitation again returns. The funerals now are as high as 310 in one month, though the average is only about 20!

In 1686 there seems to be a partial return of the plague; probably also in 1711. In 1715 there is a great mortality.

During the cholera in 1832, the number of funerals in one month was 513, the average per month at that period being little more than 100.

On the 26th February, 1837, there were 369 baptisms in one day.†

\* The *parish* consists of 32 *townships*, of which the townships of Manchester and Salford are two, though much the largest in point of present population.

† This was just before the new Registration Act came into operation. The service was performed by the Rev. Henry Fielding, M.A., at that time one of the chaplains of the college. It may be added, that the number of banns of marriage published each Sunday in the Collegiate Church averages more than 150 couples.



But I must now bring these remarks to a close, apologizing to the audience, and especially to those who are strangers in Manchester, for having detained them so long with a subject which has probably more interest for myself than for many of those whom I have now had the honour of addressing. I felt that matters of local interest would not be unacceptable to an Association which considers such topics to be not beneath its regard, and have therefore ventured to draw your attention to a subject which required, perhaps, the apology of being connected with the locality which the Association has now honoured with its presence, to justify its introduction, in this prominent manner, to your notice.

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*Capital Punishments in Lancashire during the last Sixty Years.*

By R. W. HOPKINS, Esq.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, at Manchester,  
24th June, 1842.]

SIR,

Preston, June 22, 1842.

THE subject of capital punishments having excited much attention of late years, it occurred to me that the enclosed paper might possibly be interesting to some of the members of the British Association, attending the proceedings of the Statistical Section, of which I understand you are the president. It contains "An Account of the Number of Persons capitally convicted who were executed, within the County Palatine of Lancaster, in each Year, from the Year 1782, inclusive, and the crimes for which they severally received sentence of Death."

It appears that within a period of less than 60 years last past, 260 persons have undergone the extreme penalty of the law, in this county, 10 of whom were females.

The last execution comprised in this statement took place at Kirkdale, in April, 1838.

The crimes of which the females were severally convicted may be ascertained by tracing the finger backwards to an asterisk (\*) under the proper title, in the same line of figures.

I believe the contents of this paper to be very nearly if not quite, accurate; but it must *not* be considered as an *official document*. With this understanding, I request you to exercise your own discretion as to laying it before the Statistical Section, or not,

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

R. W. HOPKINS.

To G. W. Wood, Esq., M.P.

&c.      &c.      &c.

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[A glance at the several classes of offences will show how much of the decline in the number of executions results merely from changes in our criminal code. ED.]